

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action of August 21, 2007 wherein the disclosure was objected to; the pending claims 1-4 were rejected as being indefinite under 35 USC §112; claims 1 and 2 were rejected as being anticipated under 35 USC §102(b); and, claims 3 and 4 were rejected as being obvious under 35 USC §103(a).

Pursuant to this Amendment, Applicant has amended the disclosure at page 1 for eliminating reference to specific claims. Applicant has also amended claim 1 by incorporating the features of claims 2 and 3 and, further, calling for the knitting machine to comprise electrically driven thread feeder means to pull off the weft thread from a reel. Thus, claims 2 and 3 were cancelled. Claim 1 was also amended so as to particularly and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as Applicant's invention as required by 35 USC §112. As further set out herein below, Applicant submits that the currently pending claims 1 and 4 are now neither taught nor suggested by Mayer, U.S. Patent No. 4,487,039 and that these claims are patentable over the prior art and are in condition for allowance.

According to Mayer '039, the take-down speed of a thread is controlled as a function of the position of a carriage. In particular, data stored with regard to specific positions of the carriage and of the position of the main shaft of the knitting machine are used for this purpose. The carriage is not a weft bar and also cannot be compared with this, since Mayer's carriage brings the weft thread to a transport carriage. Moreover, Mayer's deliver length of the weft thread is not predetermined from a pattern program as set forth in the amended independent claim of the instant application. Therefore, Mayer's correction factor has another function,

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which is mainly the correction according to the position of the carriage, and which is different from the function of the correction factor of the instant application.

Since the control device has control means in order to set the delivery length of the weft thread to be supplied according to the travel of the weft bar, according to the present invention, said travel being predetermined from the pattern program, this ensures that the exactly required thread length is always available for each laying of a weft thread and for each pattern.

The features of setting the delivery length of the weft thread to be supplied according to the travel of the weft bar, predetermined from the pattern program, is neither disclosed nor suggested by Mayer.

The subject matter of the amended Claim 1 is further distinguished from Mayer '039 in that Mayer proposes to control weft thread and warp beam by means of a servomotor. Thereby the warp beam is positively driven only. Therefore, the information about the warp beam and the weft beam is needed to control the delivery lengths. Whenever the fineness of Mayer's machine is changed, information like the size of warp beam and the weft beam is needed to be adjusted.

By the instant application as defined by the amended independent claim 1, however, the length of the warp and the weft and the delivery of the threads are automatically adjusted in case of a change of the machine fineness. Both the weft and the warp are positively controlled by a step motor. For the instant application, the information about the warp beam and the weft beam is no longer needed to control the delivery lengths of the threads.

The above-mentioned information is available and computable since the only relevant

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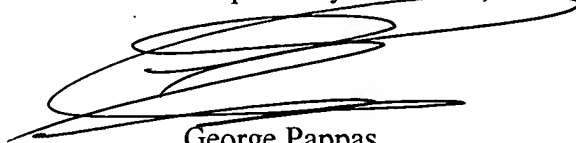
element for the delivery length is the size of the feeder reel. The control unit can compute the delivery length and transform the data into an angular speed of the feeder reel.

In summary, only pursuant to the claimed invention and not by the method suggested by Mayer, the superposition of an adjustable correcting factor K onto the delivery data of the weft thread for at least one weft insertion has the effect that the process can be easily adjusted. For Mayer's installation, such a single manually inserted correction factor K would not lead to the technical success of the invention.

For the reasons set forth above, the allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for any extension of time or payment of fee, Applicant hereby petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 16-0248, Pappas Law Offices. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 426-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'George Pappas', written over a horizontal line.

George Pappas
Registration No. 32,287
Attorney for Applicant

Date: December 21, 2007

GP:jf

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Pappas Law Office
919 South Harrison St., Suite 300
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Telephone: 260-426-2340
Facsimile: 260-426-2223

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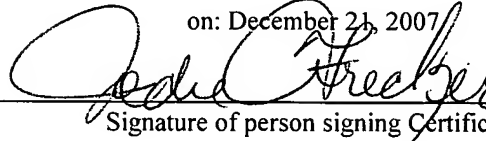
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